



Suicide Injury Factsheet

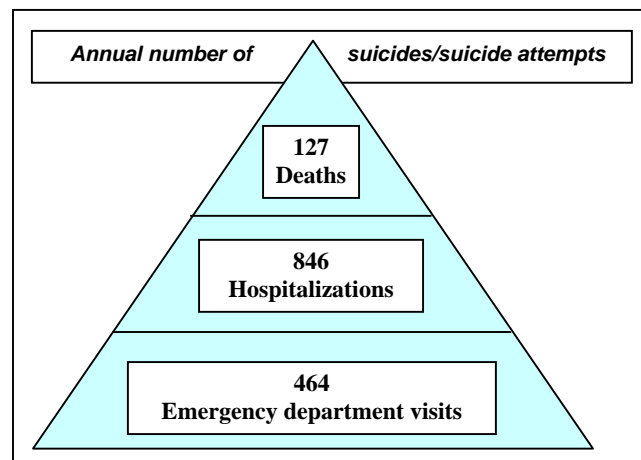
Injury Prevention & Control Program

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Overview

Hawaii had the 35th highest suicide rate in the United States. The annual rate in Hawaii (10.9 suicides/100,000 residents) was nearly the same as that for the rest of the country (10.7 suicides/100,000).

Suicides were the leading cause of injury mortality in Hawaii, and suicide attempts were the 3rd leading cause of non-fatal injury-related hospitalizations. For every suicide in Hawaii, there are 7 residents who are hospitalized, and another 4 who are treated in emergency departments (ED) for non-fatal suicide attempts each year.



This factsheet describes injuries to Hawaii residents only, unless otherwise noted. Mortality data is mostly compiled from years 2000-2004. Hospitalization (2003) and ED data (2002) includes only non-fatal injuries.

Mortality trends (2000-2004)

- Significantly decreasing trend (140 to 112 suicides per year).

Groups at risk

- Two-thirds (67%) of the suicide victims were between 21 and 55 years of age. The highest fatality rates were among residents 75 years and older, and 25 to 54 year-olds.
- Male victims outnumbered females by an approximately 3-to-1 ratio.
- Compared to suicide victims, victims of suicide attempts were much more likely to be female (60%), and were generally younger (47% were 14-30 years of age).

Environment/geography

- Suicide rates among Oahu residents were 30% lower compared to Neighbor Island residents, with highest rates for Hawaii County.

Contributing factors

- At least one negative life event was documented in the autopsy records of most (64%) of the Oahu suicide victims (1997-1999), most commonly serious illness (28%) or the end of a relationship (27%).
- About one-third (31%) of the victims tested positive for alcohol at autopsy, with heavy use more common among younger victims.
- Illicit drugs were detected among 26% of the victims, including methamphetamine (14%), marijuana (8%), and cocaine (6%).
- About two-thirds (62%) of the victims had a documented history of mental illness, and about one-fifth (22%) had made previous attempts.
- Hanging/suffocation was the most common mechanism of suicides, while 76% of attempts were from poisonings.